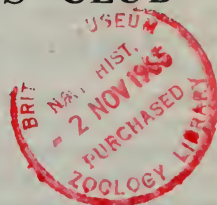


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The six hundred and twenty-eighth meeting of the Club was held at the British Museum (Natural History) on the 19th October, 1965 in conjunction with the British Ornithologists' Union.

### The Special General Meeting

Since fewer than the required 50 members were present, the proposals concerning changes in the Club rules could not be decided upon.

### The races of the Pompadour Green Pigeon, *Treron pompadora*, in the Philippine Islands

by KENNETH C. PARKES

*Received 3rd August, 1965*

The Pompadour Green Pigeon, *Treron pompadora*, is a highly polytypic species inhabiting southern Asia from India east to Timor. It is a common and widely distributed member of the avifauna of the Philippine Islands. Current literature assigns all Philippine populations to the subspecies *axillaris* (Bonaparte), excepting those from the Sulu Archipelago, which are *everetti* (Rothschild). Bonaparte gave no locality for *axillaris*, but Hachisuka (*The birds of the Philippine Islands*, vol. 1, part 2, 1932: 173) gives the restricted type locality as "southern Luzon". Examination of nearly 200 Philippine specimens of this species indicates the present taxonomic treatment to be an oversimplification. The geographic variation within the Philippines can better be reflected by restricting the name *axillaris* to the populations of southern Luzon, Mindoro, and Polillo, and describing two new subspecies. The first of these may be known as:

*Treron pompadora canescens*, subsp. nov.

*Type*: American Museum of Natural History no. 459771, adult ♂, collected at Santa Catalina, Inubongan, Negros Island, Philippines, 21st December, 1953, by D. S. Rabor (collector's no. 5755).

*Characters*: males differ from *axillaris* of southern Luzon as follows: maroon area of dorsum darker, with a glaucous wash; a rather distinct pale grey band (lacking or rudimentary in *axillaris*) between the maroon area and the green of the fore-back; the latter area washed with greyish; grey of crown averaging purer and more extensive; green of underparts averaging somewhat less yellowish; axillary region more purely grey, less mixed with greenish; centre of abdomen usually with greyish wash. Males

differ from *everetti* of the Sulus as follows: underparts less intensely yellow green; dorsum darker, less purplish; grey band between maroon and green areas of back averaging less clearly defined. Females differ from *axillaris* less distinctly; the axillary region as in males; grey cap clearer, more distinct; generally with more grey on abdomen and a greyish wash on the fore-back. Females differ from *everetti* in having less contrast between the pale green of the nape and fore-back and the dark green of the mantle.

*Range*: central and southern islands of the Philippine archipelago, except for the Sulu islands; see list of specimens examined. One male from Leyte approaches *axillaris* in back colour, but two females from Leyte and a series of twelve specimens from adjacent Samar indicate that the populations of these islands should be assigned to *canescens*. Males from Polillo are somewhat less yellow below, with more grey on the abdomen, than most *axillaris*, but are best assigned to that subspecies.

*Treron pompadora amadoni*, subsp. nov.

*Type*: American Museum of Natural History no. 767586, adult ♂, collected at Barrio Disulap, San Mariano, Isabela Province, northern Luzon Island, Philippines, 5th May, 1961, by G. Alcasid, M. Celestino, T. Oane, and J. Ramos (collectors' no. 327).

*Characters*: resembles the geographically distant *canescens* much more closely than the adjacent *axillaris*: males differ from *canescens* in having the grey areas at front of maroon mantle and on crown averaging darker and less clearly defined, and in lacking a dark grey band at the posterior margin of the maroon mantle. Females average darker on the back than *axillaris*, but more uniform than *canescens*, with little or no grey wash on the fore-back; underparts average greyer, less yellowish green than either *axillaris* or *canescens*; nearer the former in having the cap less purely grey and less clearly defined.

*Range*: northern Luzon Island, Philippines (see list of specimens examined for provinces). The southernmost specimens of *amadoni* examined are from southern Mountain Province; the northernmost of *axillaris* are from east-central Nueva Ecija Province.

This subspecies is named for Dr. Dean Amadon of the American Museum of Natural History in recognition of his many kindnesses in placing the facilities of his institution at my disposal during my studies of Philippine birds.

*Specimens examined*: *T. p. axillaris*—LUZON (by province) Bataan, 8; Camarines, 3; Nueva Ecija, 8; Rizal, 3; Sorsogon, 14; MINDORO, 2; POLILLO, 10. *T. p. canescens*—BASILAN, 4; BOHOL, 4; LEYTE 3; MINDANAO, 25; NEGROS, 22; PANAY, 1; SAMAR, 12; SQUIJOR, 5. *T. p. amadoni*—LUZON (by province) Abra, 1; Cagayan, 38; Ilocos Norte, 4; Isabela, 15; "Northern Luzon" unspecified, 4 (=Whitehead's specimens from Benguet subprovince, Mountain Province). *T. p. everetti*—BONGAO, 1 (the type); MAIMBUN, 1; SIBUTU, 2; SULU, 1.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My own institution, Carnegie Museum, possess only eight specimens of *Treron pompadora*. Therefore most of the study reported on here was conducted at the American Museum of Natural History through the

courtesy of Dr. Amadon, supported in part by a travel grant from the Chapman Memorial Fund. Specimens were also studied at the Chicago Natural History Museum, Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University, United States National Museum, and Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, with the kind co-operation of the authorities of those institutions.

## On the breeding of *Lamprotornis mevesii* (Wahlberg)

by R. K. BROOKE

Received 24th May, 1965

The only original observations on the breeding of *Lamprotornis mevesii* are contained in Benson (1944 and 1953) and Jubb (1952). From these we learn that it nests during the rains in holes in trees (Acacias, Baobabs, Mopane and Palms) and that the one egg collected is plain pale blue and measures 28.5 x 20 mm. A number of breeding records, mostly from Rhodesia, are now available which round out this rather scanty picture (see Table).

Records 11, 12 and 13 were in adjacent trees. It would appear that Jubb's (1952) record of three nests in one tree is not normal behaviour but, rather, symptomatic of the opportunist tendencies of starlings. They seem indifferent whether the hole is in live or dead wood or whether the entrance is underneath a branch or on the side of a trunk.

Dr. C. R. Saunders has written to me about record no. 16 which is now in his collection and has made some interesting points in connection with the species which I now quote. "Nest lined with a few leaves and bits of dead fibre. Eggs a rather washed out greeny-blue and not at all like those of *L. chloropterus* and *L. chalybaeus* which are a far deeper and richer blue. Immaculate but heavily nest-stained. Moderately incubated.

"It seems to be resident throughout the year at Chiredzi. At Dennis Townley's on the Devure River small parties are fed at his front window on fruit and they definitely move out at the commencement of the rains when the flocks break up into pairs and do not return to his garden until early winter. They migrate to breed a few miles away.

"A pair has bred for the last two years in a black thorn tree opposite my driveway (at Chiredzi). This nest is in a broken off branch hollow about 20 feet from the ground. They produced two young last year and again this year breeding in February and exhibiting their young on our lawn in late March. For about three weeks after leaving the nest the young are conspicuous by their short tails. A pair nested in January 1964 in a broken off branch of a thorn tree on the banks of the Chiredzi River. This nest was inaccessible, but like the others I have seen was certainly neither in a colony nor on the under side of the branch.

"They sleep in a thickly foliaged tree right outside my bedroom and though they are active and noisy at roosting time they could hardly be called acrobatic. They frequently wake up at night and 'churr' away shrilly."

The table supports Saunders' comments on *L. mevesii* being a rainy season breeder. Praed and Grant (1963) write "Recorded breeding: Northern Rhodesia, October and November. Nyasaland, October to February. Southern Rhodesia, December to February. The references to October and November are apparently based on Priest's (1936) honest